



HR0385

LRB102 18845 ECR 27559 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrates the emancipation of slavery in the United States; the holiday commemorates June 19, 1865, which was when the last enslaved African Americans held in Confederate states were finally freed by the Union army; six months later, the adoption of the 13th Amendment officially abolished slavery in America; and

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WHEREAS, Two years after learning about the holiday while visiting family, Tommy Meeks established a Juneteenth Celebration in Rockford in 1990; and

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WHEREAS, Tommy Meeks has engaged in partnership and collaboration to expand the reach of his Juneteenth Celebration and has thereby increased cultural and historical competence throughout Rockford and the surrounding communities; and

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WHEREAS, Tommy Meeks, as a community leader and through his Juneteenth Celebrations, has embraced the sole mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history; and

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WHEREAS, The year 2021 marks the 1st year that Juneteenth will be an official State Holiday in Illinois; and

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1           WHEREAS, The year 2021 marks the 31st year of the Rockford  
2 Juneteenth Celebration, which is the oldest known Juneteenth  
3 Celebration in Illinois; therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
5 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
6 we commend Tommy Meeks for his dedication for the past 31 years  
7 to the promotion of Juneteenth and its importance to the  
8 history of our nation.